

Discover Nature at Burr Oak Woods!

Burr Oak Woods

Conservation

Nature Center

2015–2016

Interpretive Program Guide

for Teachers and Group Leaders



MDC
DISCOVER
nature



General Information

WELCOME! While at Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center, you will find a variety of programs developed for school age children. Each program incorporates hands-on and minds-on learning opportunities in the outdoors. Programs are designed specifically to enhance science based subjects but many are cross-curricular.

Choose Burr Oak Woods for your field trip this year. We guarantee that your students will be engaged, learn something new and continue to discuss their experience long after they leave the nature center.

How do I schedule my program with Burr Oak Woods?

For more information or to schedule your free program, call **816-228-3766**.

Registration begins:

Fall Programs:	August 4, 2015
Programs at your school:	November 3, 2015
Spring Programs:	January 5, 2016
Summer Programs:	April 1, 2016



Self-guided Visits

Self guided groups are always welcome at the nature center. We ask that you schedule your visit as you would any program. Upon arrival, please check in at the front desk. You may request a trail map to help you explore the area.

What can we expect when we arrive?

Burr Oak Woods Nature Center is managed by the Missouri Department of Conservation. Nestled in the heart of this 1,071-acre conservation area are six hiking trails, including two paved trails, which provide easy access to most parts of the area. The interpretive center has educational and informative exhibits, including a 3,000 gallon freshwater aquarium, the Discover Nature play area, a wildlife viewing room, and a variety of live amphibians and reptiles.

- Picnic areas are available on a first come first serve basis. Burr Oak Woods has a trash in trash out policy, please bring trash bags for your group.
- Your program contains an outdoor component. In case of inclement weather, an indoor program may be substituted.
- Please arrive 10 minutes before your scheduled program. Late arrivals will shorten your program time.
- Let us know in advance if anyone in your group needs special accommodations.
- If Blue Springs Schools are closed due to weather, all programs will be cancelled.

Pre-school



At Burr Oak Woods

1 hour

For 10 to 25 students

Seasons of Change

The natural world is ever-changing as it cycles through the seasons. Students discover the wonders of the present season through hands-on activities and outdoor exploration.

Naturally Sense-sational

Pack your sensing toolkit and head out to the trails at Burr Oak Woods as we discover how to see, smell, touch, taste, and hear just like our animal friends. This program includes a puppet show and trail hike.

Nature's Hide & Seek

"Now you see me! Now you don't!" Discover the strategies animals use to avoid predators or search for prey. Observation skills will be put to the test as we play interactive games and hike down a secret trail.



At Your School (DECEMBER THROUGH FEBRUARY)

FOR SCHOOL DISTRICT LOCATIONS ONLY

.5 hour

For 30 to 80 students

Wild Moms!

Can you help match the wild animal mother with its young? Discover how we use clues such as animal body coverings, special shapes and features of animals to learn who goes with who and what kind of animal group to whom they belong. We will use real animal artifacts, stuffed and plastic toy animals and pictures to decide if they are mammals, birds, reptiles or amphibians. This program provides children the opportunity to see live animals up close and to touch a snake. Students will be divided into groups of 15-20 for each 30 minute session.



Kindergarten

At Burr Oak Woods

1.5 hours

For 10 to 80 students

Microhike

Just as Horton discovers Whoville, sometimes the most interesting things in nature are found right beneath our feet. Students explore mini-worlds that help make the Earth an amazing place to live. Out in the field, students use simple equipment such as hand lenses to observe and compare the structures and behaviors of different kinds of plants and animals.

That Makes Perfect Sense

Wild animals use their five senses to survive just like we do. This interactive program will help students understand just how animals use their senses. Then we'll head outdoors and use our own senses as we search for signs of wildlife along the trail.



At Your School (DECEMBER THROUGH FEBRUARY)

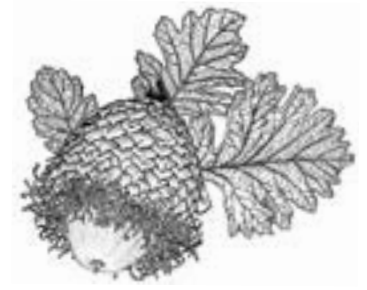
1.5 hours

For 2 to 4 classes (max 80 students)

Nature's Naming Game

We use classification in our everyday life to group objects together based on common characteristics. We classify clothing, books, and even food! Classification is also an important tool scientists use to examine the natural world. Participate in hands-on activities to learn exactly what classification is.

1st–2nd grade



At Burr Oak Woods

2.5 hours

For 10 to 80 students

Missouri's Creepiest Residents

Missouri is home to many amazing wild animals, including some that might seem kind of 'creepy'. During this program, students will participate in an interactive game show to learn about some of the amazing adaptations of these animals and to better understand and appreciate their diversity. We'll head outside in search of some of Missouri's creepiest residents in their own wild habitat.

Mammal Mysteries

Join the nature detectives to help solve a Burr Oak Woods mammal mystery. Your students will go outside to look for clues to solve the case. We will work together find out the basic needs (food water shelter and space) of the resident mammals at Burr Oak Woods.



Habitats: Nature's Neighborhoods

Burr Oak Woods is home to many plants and animals, but they don't all live in the same place. We will visit a forest, prairie, pond and glade to find out who lives there and what makes each habitat unique. Discover some of the adaptations the inhabitants use to survive in their own natural neighborhood.

At Your School (DECEMBER THROUGH FEBRUARY)

2 hours

For 2 to 4 classes (max 80 students)

Going Batty!

Bats have been misunderstood, mistreated, and shrouded in mystery throughout time. Discover the cool physical and behavioral adaptations that make bats such unique creatures. This interactive program will leave students and teachers with a better understanding of the important role that bats play in nature.



3rd–5th grade

At Burr Oak Woods

2.5 hours

For 10 to 80 students

Riddle of the Woods

Wild animals leave clues everywhere they go. Students will play an interactive game to learn how to “read” animal signs. Simply by studying the animal’s scat, we can categorize them as one of three types of consumers: herbivore, omnivore, or carnivore. Head outside for a hike of nature discovery and play a new role in the food web to understand the flow of energy through ecosystems.

Strange, Extraordinary, and Champion Trees

Become a giant hunter! Our assignment is to find the biggest, most incredible tree on the conservation area, and we need your help! Using cross-curricular, hands-on activities, students will learn to identify, age, and measure a tree. Your class will help to determine the Burr Oak Woods Champion Tree!



At Your School (DECEMBER THROUGH FEBRUARY)

2 hours

For 2 to 4 classes (max 80 students)

The Cycle Of Life

Discover the transfer of energy and the relationships between organisms that make up the natural world. Students will check out producer, consumer, and decomposer interactions, and examine predator/prey relationships. What is our role in this cycle of life?

Afternoon Program



At Burr Oak Woods

45 minutes

Fur, Feathers & Scales

For 10 to 140 students

Whether it is slimy, scaly, furry or feathered, an animal's body helps it survive. This exciting program will help your students discover more about the amphibians, reptiles, mammals and birds that live in Missouri. Students will meet a Naturalist and get an up-close visit with some of our live animals. Please feel free to spend time in the Nature Center or on the trails after your program.

Summer Programs

At Burr Oak Woods

1.5 hours



Insect-a-mania ***For 10 to 30 students***

Enter a fantastic new world! Students will marvel at the incredible adaptations of insects as they become entomologists. Students will venture into a prairie and a forest to closely examine these strange and wonderful creatures!

Amazing Adaptations ***For 10 to 90 students***

Can an owl turn its head all the way around? Why do some plants have thorns? Animals and plants have developed special behaviors or unique physical traits that promote the survival and reproduction of their species. Let's learn about these amazing adaptations together!

Backyard Neighbors

For 10 to 90 students

You might think you already know your neighbors, but do you really know everyone who lives nearby? There are many wild animals that visit our backyards when we are not looking. Join us as we search for clues that help us discover and appreciate the remarkable animals that call your neighborhood home.

Cold-Blooded Critters

For 10 to 90 students

Slither, crawl or swim in to the exciting world of Missouri's reptiles and amphibians. These cold-blooded animals are unique, diverse and very important to our ecosystem. Join us as we learn about these wonderful creatures and get an up-close look at some of them!

Special Needs Groups

1 hour

Minimum 10 students

PROGRAMS ARE DESIGNED TO MEET THE NEEDS OF EMOTIONALLY, PHYSICALLY, OR EDUCATIONALLY CHALLENGED GROUPS AND WILL FOCUS ON A VARIETY OF SENSORY EXPERIENCES. FLEXIBLE, HANDS-ON PROGRAMS OFFER A NURTURING DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH TO THE STUDY OF NATURE.

Reptiles Rock!

Reptiles move about their world exploring with senses very different than our own. Discover their amazing adaptations.

Incredible Mammals of Missouri

What makes a mammal a mammal? If you don't see them when you explore in nature, how do you know they were there? Discover their incredible story through the signs they leave behind.



Discover Nature Schools



HANDS-ON EXPERIENCES IN NATURE CAN HELP MISSOURI'S K-12 STUDENTS BECOME LIFE-LONG CONSERVATIONISTS. FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO LEARN ABOUT TEACHER TRAINING, INSTRUCTIONAL UNITS, AND FUNDING FOR EQUIPMENT AND FIELD TRIPS CONTACT YOUR LOCAL CONSERVATION EDUCATION CONSULTANT AT 816-759-7300 OR AT mdc.mo.gov/education.



MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

Burr Oak Woods

Conservation Nature Center

1401 NW Park Road, Blue Springs, MO 64015

816-228-3766

mdc.mo.gov/node/280

Building hours

Tuesday-Friday: 7:00 am - 6:00 pm

Saturday: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Closed Sunday and Monday

Area hours

- Daylight Savings Time: open daily from 7:00 am - 8:00 pm
- Central Standard Time: open daily from 7:00 am - 6:00 pm

The building and area grounds are closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.

